

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. Prior to entry of this response, Claims 1-26 were pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 11, and 14 are independent. In the Final Office Action dated July 14, 2005, Claims 1-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Following this response, Claims 1-26 remain in this application. Applicants hereby address the Examiner's rejections in turn.

I. Rejection of Claims 1-13 and 20-26 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In the Final Office Action dated July 14, 2005, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-2, 4, 11-13, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,157,934 ("Khan") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,729,745 ("Reina") further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,826,253 ("Bredenberg"). Claims 1 and 11 have been amended to further define and clarify the invention, and Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments overcome this rejection and add no new matter. Support for the Amendment can be found in the specification at least on page 4, lines 2-4.

Amended Claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over the cited art for at least the reason that it recites, for example, "said interface at said spreadsheet application program configured to receive said notification when said spreadsheet application program is busy." Applicants respectfully submit that combining *Khan*, *Reina*, and *Bredenberg* would not have led to the claimed invention because *Khan*, *Reina*, and *Bredenberg* either individually or in any

reasonable combination, at least do not disclose or suggest “said interface at said spreadsheet application program configured to receive said notification when said spreadsheet application program is busy”, as recited by Claim 1. Amended Claim 11 includes a similar recitation. Accordingly, independent Claims 1 and 11 each patentably distinguish the present invention over the cited art, and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection of Claims 1 and 11.

Dependent Claims 2-10, 12-13, and 20-26 are also allowable at least for the reasons described above regarding independent Claims 1 and 11, and by virtue of their respective dependencies upon independent Claims 1 and 11. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection of dependent Claims 2-10, 12-13, and 20-26.

II. Rejection of Claims 14-19 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 14-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Khan* in view of *Reina*. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Claim 14 has been amended to further define and clarify the invention, and Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment overcomes this rejection and adds no new matter. Support for the Amendment can be found in the specification at least on page 4, lines 2-4.

Amended Claim 14 is patentably distinguishable over the cited art for at least the reason that it recites, for example, “said interface configured to receive said notification when said spreadsheet application program is busy.” Applicants

respectfully submit that combining *Khan* with *Reina* would not have led to the claimed invention because *Khan* and *Reina*, either individually or in any reasonable combination, at least do not disclose or suggest “said interface configured to receive said notification when said spreadsheet application program is busy”, as recited by Amended Claim 14. Accordingly, independent Claim 14 patentably distinguishes the present invention over the cited art, and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection of Claim 14.

Dependent Claims 15-19 are also allowable at least for the reasons described above regarding independent Claim 14, and by virtue of their dependency upon independent Claim 14. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection of dependent Claims 15-19.

III. Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment After Final be entered by the Examiner, placing the claims in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully submit that the proposed amendments of the claims do not raise new issues or necessitate the undertaking of any additional search of the art by the Examiner, since all of the elements and their relationships claimed were either earlier claimed or inherent in the claims as examined. Therefore, this Amendment should allow for immediate action by the Examiner.

Finally, Applicants respectfully submit that the entry of the Amendment would place the application in better form for appeal, should the Examiner dispute the patentability of the pending claims.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention, as amended, is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of the prior art references cited against this application. Applicants therefore request the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration and reexamination of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims, as amended, are patentable over the cited references. The preceding arguments are based only on the arguments in the Official Action, and therefore do not address patentable aspects of the invention that were not addressed by the Examiner in the Official Action. The claims may include other elements that are not shown, taught, or suggested by the cited art. Accordingly, the preceding argument in favor of patentability is advanced without prejudice to other bases of patentability. Furthermore, the Final Office Action contains a number of statements reflecting characterizations of the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is identified herein, Applicants decline to automatically subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Final Office Action.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 13-2725.

Respectfully submitted,
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